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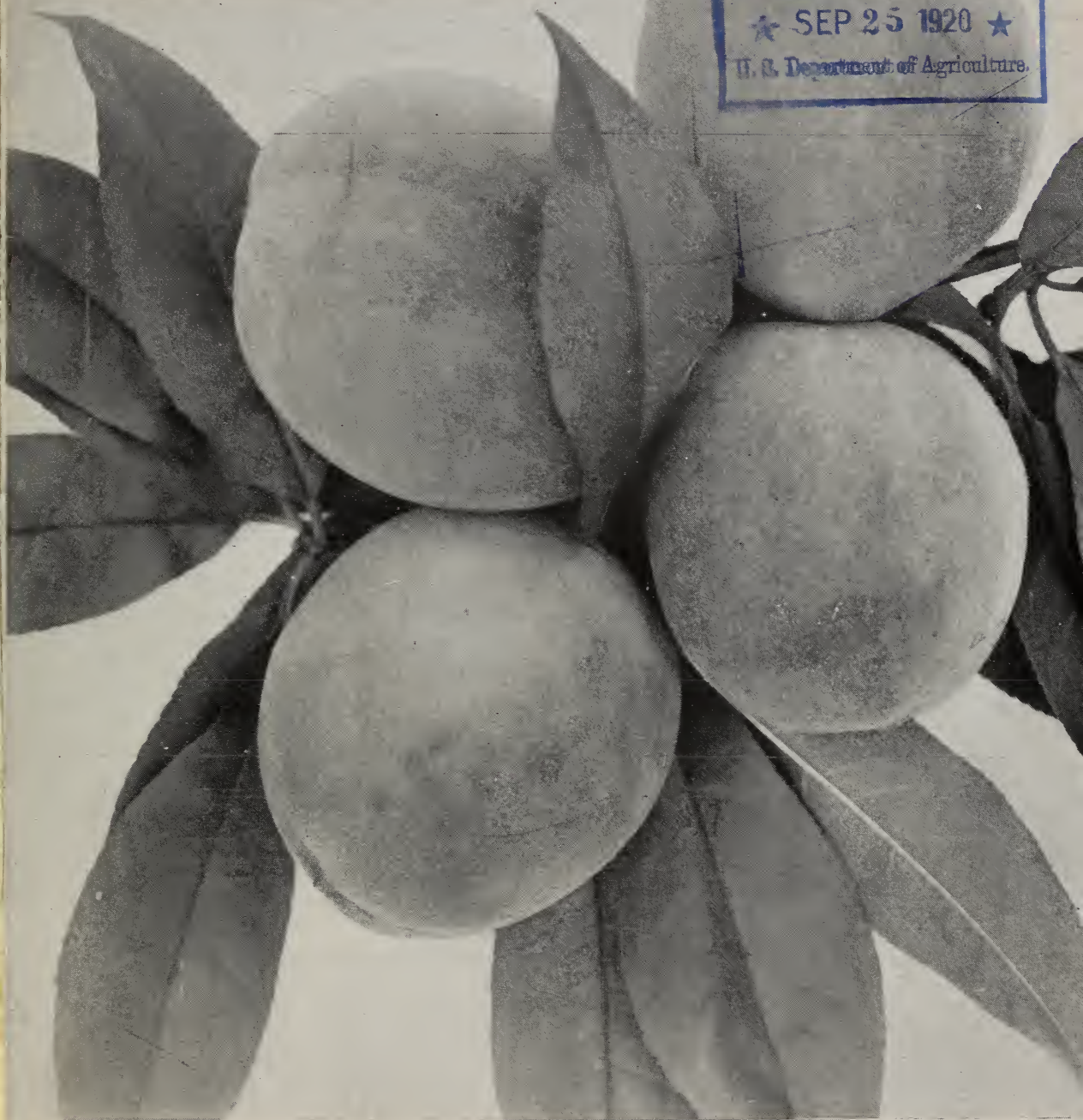
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1914

Elberta Peach—Probably the greatest commercial variety of any deciduous tree fruit grown in the United States.

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Special Peach Bulletin—February

GENERAL PRICES
AND COLLECTIONS
PAGE 5

The Van Dusen Nurseries
W. L. McKAY, Proprietor
GENEVA, NEW YORK

SPECIAL PRICES
25 PEACH TREES, \$1.25
PAGE 7

When prices or sizes in bulletins vary from those in the catalogue, the prices in the bulletin govern for that month

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MONTHLY BULLETINS

Monthly Bulletins similar to this will be mailed you up to April or May. We printed last winter an edition of our General Catalogue with full descriptions of varieties sufficient for two or three seasons; therefore, these Bulletins will contain no descriptions or comments on varieties except in a few instances.

If you were on our mailing list or corresponded with us last season you have had this Catalogue, but another copy will be sent you on application if desired.

THE PEACH-HISTORICAL



Load of Hill's Chili Peaches Starting for the Canning Works, from Our Orchard Shown on Page 7

Prunus Persica is a species of the vegetable kingdom, the fruit of which, if not spoiled by commercial canneries, is sold to the consumer in Jersey peach baskets or Georgia carriers. Botanists say it is closely related to plums, cherries and almonds and that it grows mostly in the North Temperate Zone. Oh, you fortunate people who live in the N. T. zone and can plant a twenty cent peach tree which during its life should bear twenty to fifty bushels of luscious fruit worth \$2.00 a bushel!

But the peach was not always known on our continent. Its original home was China. It was cultivated by the ancients in that country and was undoubtedly a favorite dessert of Confucius. Gradually the culture of this luxury was extended westward by introduction from one country to another, passing through Persia whence the species name "*Persica*" is derived. Later when the Persians invaded Greece, Xerxes may have carried a helmetful of peach pits to plant in the new possessions he hoped to gain. If he didn't, at least some one did; for the peach has long been known in southern Europe.

During the sixteenth century the Spanish explorers brought to North America various seeds, among them peach pits which found congenial surroundings; and the trees so planted in the early settlements spread through the forests of southern United States and ran wild over large areas. The little Indian boys probably stole peaches three hundred years ago from the trees of the first settlers. To this day the southern wild peaches afford the pits from which our own vigorous seedlings are grown for budding.

During Colonial days the peach was less important commercially than for its contributions to the garden of your great-great-grandfather and of mine. The varieties they planted are practically unknown in our orchards at the present time. Their peaches were luxuries grown only for local use. There was, in fact, no way to ship perishable fruits. Quality and appearance dictated the value of a variety. One variety, the "American Heath" peach was described in 1803. The writer, describing its size, wrote, "Many of them weigh a full pound"—like the Jersey skeeters!

These early peach trees were grown from pits; but as budding became better known it was employed more and more for the propagation of definite varieties. Now for the last fifty



Belle of Georgia—Photographed from Our Testing Orchard August, 1913

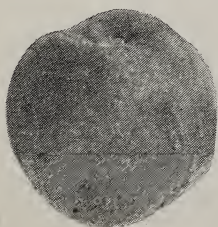
years plantations of unbudded trees have been exceptional. From 1870 to 1890 a good many peach orchards were set in the various northern states with such varieties as the Crawfords, Mountain Rose and Salway.

During the '70's someone received from China a peach called the Chinese Cling. Itself of little value, this peach produced during the '90's several seedlings which have been most extensively propagated and which today supply at least three-quarters of this country's peach crop. Most important of these is Elberta. This great peach, originating in Georgia, has become the leading commercial peach wherever it can be grown. I have seen Elberta in New York and I have seen it in Texas; and in the two extremes of latitude it was the same firm, large, handsome yellow peach.

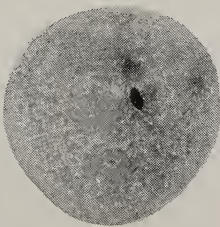
A group of Chinese Cling seedlings which are white like their parent contains several varieties which in some localities excel Elberta in value. Greensboro, Carman, Champion and Belle of Georgia ripen in the order given; and by their delicious quality and blushing charm they have compelled a welcome in a market formerly distrustful of any peach not as yellow as a sunflower. Champion lacks its sisters' coloring. It is a large, delicate white fruit, hailing from Illinois. The others came respectively from North Carolina, Texas and Georgia. Strange to say, these four peaches are exceptionally hardy, as is Waddell, another popular member of the group. Their young wood and buds will survive heavy freezing such as would put Crawfords on the brushpile. Our own new peach plantings comprise Belle of Georgia and Greensboro set December, 1913, which as yet have not been injured by thirteen degrees below zero. At Geneva we can get fine crops from these varieties even on our heavy soil with underlying clay.

For Orchard plantings in cold regions in New England and other northern states where people tell you "you can't raise peaches", try these hardy, white kinds or the still hardier yellow ones, Hill's Chili and Fitzgerald, both of good quality and acceptable to the peach market. Hill's originated in New York and "Fitz" in Canada.

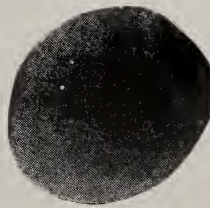
In the little garden planted for the family to eat from and for "Dad" to putter in, he wants a sequence of varieties chosen for quality; Abundance, white, ripening in middle August; Waddell, a little later; Foster, yellow with a glorious dark scarlet cheek; Champion, Early Crawford, Old Mixon, Crimson Beauty, a little peach that looks like a Titian sunset and tastes better; Willett, a most ingratiating yellow peach; winding up in October with McKay's Late, which is unequaled for its season whether cooked into marmalade or cut up with sugar and cream. These nine varieties will supply a continuous stream of enjoyment for as many weeks, which home canning of Early Crawford or McKay's Late may extend into winter and spring. Epicurus, himself might well envy the planter of such a garden and be glad that the peach is excepted from the list of Asiatics debarred from citizenship in this country.



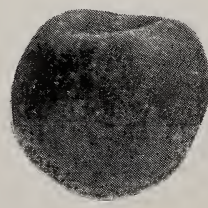
Carman



Champion



Hill's Chili



Salway

There are in the United States of America over one hundred million planted peach trees one (and a fraction) for each man, woman and child. You have planted yours, of course? If not, you can't do it too soon for your own happiness. If you have some already, get some more and raise the average. Room? You've got room enough. Do you camp in a hall bedroom in a big city? Fine!—provided you have a window. A twelve inch flower pot will hold a dwarf peach tree most comfortably in front of your window. It will have fruit very early in life and will bear annually for several years. If you have no window and no outdoor space of your own, we shall have to excuse you for depriving yourself of fruit trees. In that case we suggest mushrooms! (W. J. M.)

As to what varieties you plant, it depends on the sort of orchard you want. Here are a few suggestions:

COMMERCIAL ORCHARD

Plant few varieties.

Quality entirely subordinate to other considerations of commercial value.

Plant varieties that ship well, are productive and hardy, and that ripen in succession.

Don't experiment. Plant varieties tested for your locality.

HOME-USE ORCHARD

Plant an assortment of varieties.

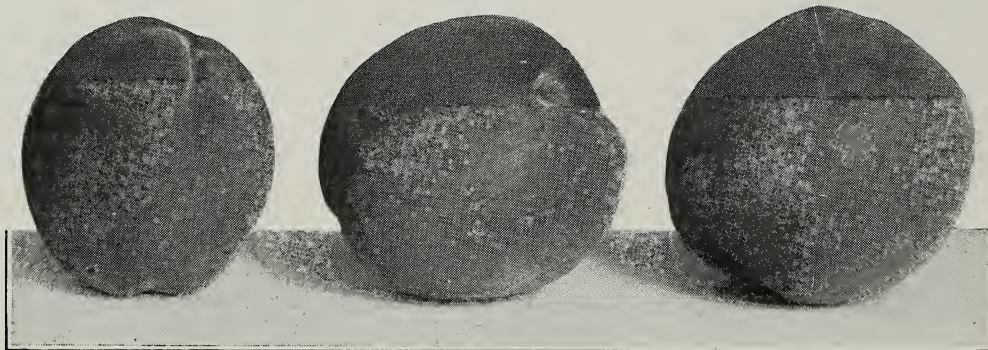
Quality is all-important.

Provide a succession of varieties.

A good variety for home need not be a good bearer.

Plant some dwarf trees and experiment with cordon and espalier forms.

To generalize, we say: In commercial orchards plant kinds that BRING BIGGEST RETURNS in cash, irrespective of any other consideration. In gardens or home-use orchards plant for your personal satisfaction—make a little show place—plant things you LIKE.



McKay's Late, 50c

Lamont, 30c

Willet, 40c

One of each of these three varieties, \$1.00

GROW? OF COURSE they'll grow! It's the NATURE of a fruit tree to grow and to bear fruit. It requires actual maltreatment or serious neglect to kill a vigorous young tree; and it will often fruit, even under unfavorable conditions of soil and climate. Trees generally won't die on your hands if you treat them right, and if they have been treated right by the grower. And WE TREAT THEM RIGHT! We set fifteen hundred and fifty trees in one orchard two years ago last fall—every one lived and is alive today. Many have fruited. These were the ordinary grade of one-year tree and the planting was merely sticking the trimmed root into a hole and tramping the earth over it. As for fruiting under difficulties, why, we have a few rows of eight year old Elberta orchard shaded by an evergreen hedge and growing on a piece of very heavy clay that we call the "brickyard". We get a little fruit here every year; and at the State Fair three years ago we took fourth place on Elberta for fruit grown under these decidedly unfavorable conditions. With proper care and soil you need never fear that our vigorous New York grown trees will not live and fruit.

STANDARD PEACH TREES

All Peach trees are dug and sold when one year old by all nurserymen

PRICES OF PEACH TREES, except as noted, cash with order		Each	Per Doz.	Per 100
Extra size, about 4-6 ft	20c	\$2.00	\$12.00
Regular size, about 3-4 ft	15c	1.50	9.00
Medium size, about 2-3 ft.	Not less than 50 trees on an order....			6.00

LIST OF VARIETIES

Belle of Georgia	Greensboro
Carman	Hill's Chili
Chair's Choice	Mt. Rose
Champion	Niagara
Crawford's Early	Old Mixon
Crawford's Late	Salway
Crosby	Smock
Elberta	Stevens
Fitzgerald	Stump
Foster	Yellow St. John

Prices of New and Special Varieties

ABUNDANCE, LAMONT, WADDELL and CRIMSON BEAUTY, 30c, 20c and 15c for the three sizes respectively. WILLETT, 40c, 25c and 20c, and MCKAY'S LATE, 50c, 40c and 25c.

In all these varieties and in all sizes the dozen rate is ten times, and the hundred rate sixty times the single rate.



C. C. McKay Inspecting Block of Dwarf Peach Trees, October 10, 1913

DWARF PEACH TREES

30c each, \$3.00 per doz., \$20.00 per 100

Abundance, 50c.	Greensboro
Belle of Georgia	Lamont, 50c.
Carman	McKay's Late, 50c.
Champion	Mt. Rose
Crawford's Early	Niagara
Crawford's Late	Salway
Crimson Beauty, 50c.	Smock
Elberta	Willett, 50c.
Fitzgerald	Yellow St. John

Abundance, Crimson Beauty, and Lamont may be included in orders of 12 or more at the \$3.00 rate while they last.

COLOR COLLECTION OF DWARF PEACHES

Champion, white without blush.
Crimson Beauty, solid dark crimson.
Fitzgerald, golden yellow.
Niagara, orange red on yellow.
Belle of Georgia, white with pink blush.
McKay's Late, pale yellow.

List price	\$ 2.20
COLLECTION PRICE	\$1.50

In this collection, if we are later sold out of a variety, we will substitute a suitable variety correctly labeled.

STANDARD COLOR COLLECTION

Same varieties, standard form, \$1.00.

ABUNDANCE STANDARD PEACH COLLECTION, \$1.50

CONSISTING OF OUR SIX SPECIAL VARIETIES AS FOLLOWS:

*ABUNDANCE. Very early, white, of high quality, bearing enormous yearly crops	\$0.30
WADDELL. Early, hardy, white, a charming daughter of the Chinese Cling	.30
*CRIMSON BEAUTY. Mid-season, yellow, delicious quality. Entirely crimson	.30
LAMONT. Late, yellow, really an improved Early Crawford	.30
WILLETT. Later, very large, without doubt the highest quality of any yellow peach	.40
*MCKAY'S LATE. Latest, mid-October; light yellow, as juicy as an Early Crawford	.50

*We are the only growers of these three varieties.

List Price	\$2.10
Collection Price	\$1.50

HOW WE GROW OUR PEACH TREES

A peach bulletin would be very incomplete without going into detail as to manner of growing our trees, which will show why they are better and safer to plant than those of other nurserymen unless they take the same precautions that we do.

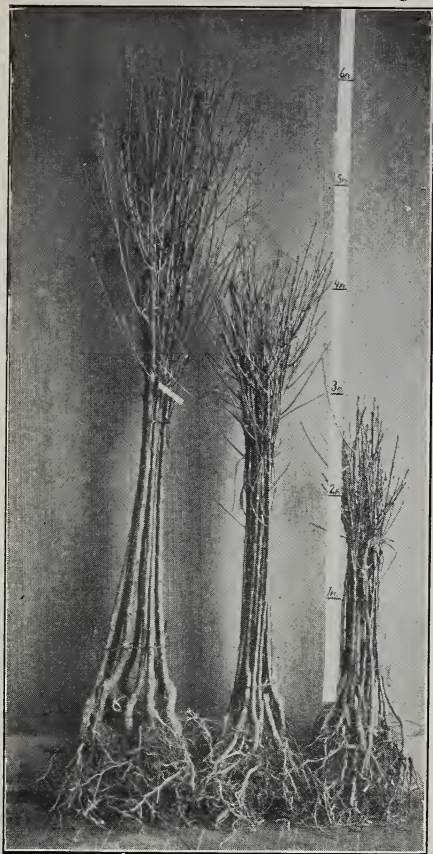
Aside from any intentional substitutions, the nurseryman is handicapped by the danger of trees becoming mixed either in budding or after digging. If most varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees become so mixed, they show differences of growth and general appearance sufficiently marked to at least tell us that there is a mixture, and usually so that they can be correctly sorted out. But in peach trees this is not so; some man may claim he can identify varieties from the trees but if so he is one in a thousand and the other 999 of us candidly confess that we cannot.

Pits planted, say this spring, grow into seedlings large enough to bud this August and September. These buds remain dormant till next spring; in early spring the seedling top is cut off above the bud and in May the new bud starts—and right here trouble begins. About a hundred other buds start out at the same time all over the seedling about the bud we want to save—from the cut clear to the ground, and we have to go over them three times during the next few weeks and break off these seedling buds, the variety bud being carefully saved. But suppose a nurseryman has a hundred thousand seedlings to thus go over; it's the easiest thing in the world to mistake a seedling bud for the correct one and leave it in place of the other which may have died out. When this happens it means that here is a seedling grown up into a tree right in a row, say of Elberta. When he comes along the next August or September to cut buds for his next block of Elberta, he may cut 50 to 100 buds from this seedling tree and next year instead of a single seedling he has many. This continued a few years brings his blocks into the condition of having at least one-half their trees seedlings.

We can usually detect these seedlings and remove them, but to make assurance doubly sure, as often as every three to five years at the outside we go into the best orchards in our vicinity and from them and our own bearing trees from our testing plat, take buds for at least a row of each variety from which to cut our buds the following year. In other words, at intervals of not longer than five years we renew our stock of buds taken from bearing trees which have been tested and proven the variety we are after. If you would be at all interested in knowing the sources of every variety you buy from us, we can give you the orchard from which they came and the date of renewal. Besides several varieties which come from our own bearing trees, will say that many kinds including Elberta are from the orchards of T. H. King & Sons of Trumansburg, N. Y., and B. J. Case of Sodus. Many others are from the extensive testing orchard of our State Experiment Station.



Ten Acre Greening Orchard with Hill's Chili Peaches as Fillers. The peaches are returning us every year an amount about equal to the value of the land, and it is high priced land, too



Our Three Sizes of Peach Trees

SPECIAL BUNDLE OFFER OF PEACH TREES

Our peach trees are already done up in bundles of 10 trees of the extra size, 20 of the regular and 25 of the medium size. Of course each bundle is of only one variety. Our price per bundle will be \$1.50 per bundle for the extra, \$1.75 for the regular and \$1.25 for the medium, positively for unbroken bundles. This is materially under the dozen rate of the extra size, and less than the hundred rate of the other two grades. This offer is only for cash with order until March 10. Bundles of these three sizes are here shown.

WHICH SIZE IS BEST TO PLANT?

This depends on how high or low you wish to head your peach trees and on your own preferences as to the style of tree. The best tree for you is the one that suits you best, as I believe all these grades will do equally well. Without question if you are planting only a few trees and want them headed at the ordinary height, the extra size is going to suit you best.

If you want to head them low however, lower than 2 to 2½ feet where we head our extra size,—better get the smaller sizes, which can more safely be cut right off at any height you want, as they will throw out an even head through their lighter bark, than will the larger, thicker barked trees. Low heading is usually from six to about fifteen inches according to the individual preferences of different planters. They should be cut off at desired height soon as planted.

SOME THINGS YOU WANT TO LOOK AT IN OUR GENERAL CATALOGUE

(If you have mislaid your copy, send for another)

Be sure to look over the attractive list of collections in the General Catalogue, at prices which in most instances are about equivalent to the hundred rates.

The "McIntosh" Collection on the front cover, 8 trees for \$2.00 and the "Big Red Apple" collection on page 8, 14 trees for only \$3.00, both having our two new varieties the Scarlet Beauty and Stearns, give you an exceedingly choice assortment for home use.

The "Comice" collection of pears, six varieties including Comice and Bosc as shown on page 13, is perhaps the greatest value of any collection we offer. It is offered at less than two-thirds the list price, so that these two leaders do not cost any more than the common varieties.

The "Marguerite" Collection gives both Abbesse and Marguerite, two new kinds of cherries that cannot be surpassed as home varieties. The "Royal Duke" collection is withdrawn as we are sold out of two of the varieties there offered.

The "Mikado" and "Pearl" collections of plums are choice, and at hundred rates for only 6 trees! The latter has both Pearl and Palatine, concerning both of which Prof. Hedrick speaks in the highest terms in his "Plums of New York."

The "Empire" Peach collection gives you fifteen peach trees, all different kinds, at less than their hundred rates.

The three Grave collections and the Raspberry and Blackberry collections bringing all these plants to only a very few cents each, are by no means the least attractive.

If you are interested in shade trees, note our special Carolina Poplar and Catalpa offers on inside front cover. Cheap enough to burn for firewood.



ST. REGIS EVERBEARING RASPBERRY

Prices: 10c for 1, 25c for 3, 40c for 6, 75c for 12, \$1.25 for 25, \$2.00 for 50 and \$3.50 for 100. 25 PLANTS OR LESS, POST PAID.

The St. Regis is a berry that has attracted much attention the past few years. Like most other new varieties it has had the usual amount of extravagant claims made for it, but after several years since its introduction it seems to have settled down into its rightful position as a valuable acquisition to the family of red raspberries.

It bears a good crop at the usual time for raspberries, which continues into August. By this time the young canes which in other varieties do not bear till next year, commence to bear and is in constant fruiting till about the middle of October.

I believe it is worth trying, and we shall the coming spring add a moderate commercial planting of it to our other fruiting varieties.

JUNE RASPBERRY

Full page cut and description of JUNE in January Bulletin

Prices: 25c each, 50c for 3, 75c for 6, \$1.25 for 12, \$2.25 for 25, \$4.00 for 50 and \$7.50 for 100. 25 PLANTS OR LESS, POST PAID.